



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: August 2, 2006
Release Number: CO 10555-01

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 52 Colorado counties (and neighboring counties in Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by drought, fire, high winds, and heat that occurred in the following 28 primary Colorado counties beginning January 1, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary Colorado counties:

Adams	Alamosa	Baca	Broomfield	Chaffee
Cheyenne	Conejos	Costilla	Custer	Denver
Dolores	Douglas	Elbert	Fremont	Hinsdale
Huerfano	Kit Carson	Lake	Las Animas	Mineral
Montezuma	Morgan	Prowers	Pueblo	Rio Grande
Saguache	San Miguel	Weld		

Neighboring Colorado counties:

Arapahoe	Archuleta	Bent	Boulder	Crowley
Eagle	El Paso	Gunnison	Jefferson	Kiowa
La Plata	Larimer	Lincoln	Logan	Montrose
Otero	Ouray	Park	Pitkin	San Juan
Summit	Teller	Washington	Yuma	

Neighboring Arizona county:

Apache

Neighboring Kansas counties:

Cheyenne	Greeley	Hamilton	Morton	Sherman
Stanton	Wallace			

Neighboring Nebraska county:

Kimball

Neighboring New Mexico counties:

Colfax	Rio Arriba	San Juan	Taos	Union
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Neighboring Oklahoma county:

Cimarron

Neighboring Utah county:

San Juan

Neighboring Wyoming county:

Laramie

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Bill Owens.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **March 12, 2007**.